

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /078 W

----- 060302

R 291515Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2324

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2111

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS MILI AO WF SF ZA

SUBJECT: SWAPO MILITANCY POSES PROBLEMS FOR ZAMBIA AND UNITA

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH US OCT 29 ON ANGOLAN MATTERS (SEPTEL), UNITA LEADER JONAS SAVIMBI SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES HAVE CREATED MILITARY BUFFER ZONE RIGHT ACROSS NORTHERN LENGTH OF ANGOLAN-SOUTH WEST AFRICAN BORDER. PURPOSE, AS AVIMBI UNDERSTANDS IT, IS NOT ONLY TO PROTECT CUNENE RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT BUT ALSO TO CURTAIL INCURSIONS INTO NAMIBIA BY SWAPO. HE INDICATED POINT ON MAP INSIDE ANGOLA NEAR ZAMBIAN AND CAPRIVI STRIP BOUNDARIES WHERE SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES HAD CLASHED WITH SWAPO FIGHTERS.

2. SAVIMBI SAID THAT IN DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA THAT MORNING, LATTER HAD MENTIONED HE HAS ORDERED SWAPO CAMPS IN SESHEKE DISTRICT NEAR CAPRIVI STRIP MOVED TO MWINILUNGA DISTRICT IN FAR NORTHWESTERN
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CORNER OF ZAMBIA. SAVIMBI SUGGESTED THIS BEING DONE TO

MINIMIZE POSSIBLE FRICTION BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA WHILE KAUNDA STILL HOPING RETAIN VORSTER'S COOPERATION IN PRESSING SMITH TO RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, SOME SWAPO FIGHTERS HAD ELUDED REMOVAL ORDER AND CROSSED INTO NAMIBIA. SAVIMBI SAID THESE INDEPENDENT SWAPO MILITARY FORAYS WERE ALSO AN EMBARRASSMENT TO UNITA WHICH JUST NOW DOES NOT WANT TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH SOUTH AFRICANS. THERE HAD ERVD BEEN CLASHES BETWEEN UNITA AND SWAPO FORCES WHEN LATTER REFUSED TO DESIST.

3. COMMENT: SAVIOER REMARKS CONFIRM EARLIER PRESS REPORTS THAT ZAMBIAN GOVT HAD ORDERED SWAPO TO CEASE ALL CROSS-BORDER MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND TO MOVE AWAY FROM BORDER, ALTHOUGH THESE REPORTS HAD AT TIME BEEN DENOUNCED BY BOTH ZAMBIAN AND SWAPO LEADERS (LUSAKA 1832). FROM RELAXED TONE IN WHICH SAVIMBI DISCUSSED SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE INSIDE SOUTHERN ANGOLA, WE INFERRED HE FEELS TOO DEPENDENT UPON SOUTH AFRICAN GOODWILL TNUMAKE AN ISSUE OF THIS PRESENCE EVEN IF IT PUTS STRAIN ON HIS HITHERTO FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH SWAPO.
WILKOWSKI

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